

The China Mail.

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號九廿月二年六十九百八千一英

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1896.

日七十月正年申丙

PRICE, \$2.50 PER MONTH.

OUR JOURNAL DEPARTMENTS
HAVING been REPLEN-
ISHED with a large as-
sortment of the latest EUROPEAN
and AMERICAN NOVELTIES,
we are prepared to execute
orders for FANCY WORK with
precision and despatch, and at
very moderate rates.

'CHINA MAIL' OFFICE.

GOLD MEDALS, PARIS 1878 & 1889

JOSEPH GILLOTTS' PENS.
Of Highest Quality, & Having Greatest
Durability, are Manufactured
in England.
The only Award, Chicago, 1893.
NUMBERS FOR ORDER BY BANKERS:
Barrel Pens, 2/6, 3/6, 4/6, 5/6, 6/6, 7/6, 8/6, 9/6, 10/6, 11/6, 12/6, 13/6, 14/6, 15/6, 16/6, 17/6, 18/6, 19/6, 20/6, 21/6, 22/6, 23/6, 24/6, 25/6, 26/6, 27/6, 28/6, 29/6, 30/6, 31/6, 32/6, 33/6, 34/6, 35/6, 36/6, 37/6, 38/6, 39/6, 40/6, 41/6, 42/6, 43/6, 44/6, 45/6, 46/6, 47/6, 48/6, 49/6, 50/6, 51/6, 52/6, 53/6, 54/6, 55/6, 56/6, 57/6, 58/6, 59/6, 60/6, 61/6, 62/6, 63/6, 64/6, 65/6, 66/6, 67/6, 68/6, 69/6, 70/6, 71/6, 72/6, 73/6, 74/6, 75/6, 76/6, 77/6, 78/6, 79/6, 80/6, 81/6, 82/6, 83/6, 84/6, 85/6, 86/6, 87/6, 88/6, 89/6, 90/6, 91/6, 92/6, 93/6, 94/6, 95/6, 96/6, 97/6, 98/6, 99/6, 100/6, 101/6, 102/6, 103/6, 104/6, 105/6, 106/6, 107/6, 108/6, 109/6, 110/6, 111/6, 112/6, 113/6, 114/6, 115/6, 116/6, 117/6, 118/6, 119/6, 120/6, 121/6, 122/6, 123/6, 124/6, 125/6, 126/6, 127/6, 128/6, 129/6, 130/6, 131/6, 132/6, 133/6, 134/6, 135/6, 136/6, 137/6, 138/6, 139/6, 140/6, 141/6, 142/6, 143/6, 144/6, 145/6, 146/6, 147/6, 148/6, 149/6, 150/6, 151/6, 152/6, 153/6, 154/6, 155/6, 156/6, 157/6, 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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1896.

Ten delivery of the French mail was begun at 5.45 p.m.

WALKER defeated Scotland in the Rugby International by two tries to nil.

WALKER the mail left England, Sir John Pender was lying seriously ill from paralysis of the brain.

The meeting of the Legislative Council adjourned for Tuesday, the 3rd proximo, at 3 p.m., is postponed till Tuesday, the 10th proximo, at 3 p.m.

Lord Spencer, who was responsible for the last naval programme of the British authorities, may be expected in Hongkong by the next P. & O. mail steamer. Would it not be well if the local branch of the Navy League arranged for a public meeting to be addressed by his lordship?

Ona Hongkong officials might direct their attention to the following paragraph:—A new regulation is being enforced in the French Consulate at Canton. Any Chinese found in the streets after ten p.m., without lanterns, are arrested and fined 500 francs.

The inquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of the man whose body was found on the hillside at Wong-nai-chong on Sunday was resumed to-day at the Magistrate by Mr. T. S. Serrano Smith. Dr. Marquis, who held a post-mortem examination of the body, stated that deceased might have committed suicide. The finding was that deceased had died from asphyxia caused by strangulation.

We have just received a copy of that handy annual, The North China Daily News, issued from the office of the North China Herald. The book is got up in its usual convenient style, no suitable for commercial houses. It contains an amount of useful information, and comprises a complete directory of North China. Hangchow and Soochow are additions to the Hong List. There is also a coloured map of China expressly compiled for the work showing the routes of various distinguished travellers.

At a private meeting held to-day, the Hongkong Ropes Company shareholders unanimously approved of the recommendation of the General Managers (Messrs. Shaw and Co.) to raise the capital of the Company to \$250,000 by adding \$100,000 made up of \$90,000 taken from the Profit and Loss Account and \$10,000 from the Reserve Fund. This will give a scrip dividend to shareholders of two new for three old shares and leave a balance of over \$18,000 out of which it was decided to pay, in addition, a cash dividend of 10 per cent. or \$5 per share to shareholders.

As will be seen from our advertising columns, Messrs. Gaudet, Price, and Company, who have carried on business for some years as wine and spirit merchants at Shanghai, have opened a branch establishment at Queen's Road. The Hongkong house will be under the care of Mr. Herbert Price. Their price-list is very comprehensive, and from samples which have reached us we have reason to believe that their customers will be satisfied with the quality of the liquors supplied by the new firm. Their special liqueur whiskey, sold at \$10 per dozen is a mild mellow spirit, and the 'Sandy Grant' liqueur has the fine spicy flavour so popular among Scotchmen. Its price is \$11 per dozen. The 'Hirano' water, which is one of the specialties of the firm, is a sparkling alkaline water, almost tasteless, which makes it an admirable water for mixing with wines, spirits, &c., and by itself constitutes an excellent table water for everyday use. It was remarked by Mr. J. D. Humphreys the other day that Hongkong was experiencing a 'boom,' and the appearance of new firms may be taken as another demonstration of expansion in the European community.

At the Magistrate to-day, Captain Jackson, of the s.s. *Prism*, was charged with having cleared his ship on 29th October with 30 passengers in excess of the number allowed by his certificate. It was stated that Capt. Jackson went to the Harbour Office and cleared his ship with eight European and twelve Chinese passengers. It was afterwards found that he had no passenger certificate, and a police constable boarded the ship on the morning of the following day in order to count the passengers. There were on-board 38 Chinese, 12 Malays, and 44 of a crew. The Captain stated when he left England his passenger licence was still in force, and he understood it was in force when he came to Hongkong. He had taken on board at Kobe, by the authority of the Company and the Consul at Kobe, the crew of the s.s. *Glaucus*, which had been sold, consisting of 28 Chinese and 12 Malays. Twenty-eight of the Chinese were entered in the articles as crew. Eight of these had been on the round voyage from Singapore and the other twenty were the crew from the s.s. *Mercurius*. Asked why he had not declared them as crew, he replied it was an oversight. Captain Jackson said he was only allowed to carry twelve passengers, as his licence had expired, and he still had twenty to account for. Mr. T. Serrano Smith said he thought Captain Jackson had acted honestly throughout, and he did not think he intended in any way to evade the port regulations, but the statement he made on the port clearance was not quite correct. He therefore imposed a penalty of \$1.

On Sunday morning, between 9 and 10.30 o'clock, the steam-launch *Daypring*, carrying the Bethel flag, will call alongside any vessel holding the answering pennant, to convey men ashore to 11 a.m. services at St. Peter's (Seamen's) Church, returning about 12.30.

Mr. Erich Georg says in his weekly share report dated Hongkong, 23rd Feb.:—A very fair amount of business has been transacted during this week, and, as predicted by me, at advancing rates for a good many stocks. Holders are unwilling sellers for all good stocks, and a further rise in rates does not seem unlikely. Hongkong, Canton and Messrs. Steamboat shares have been sold in large lots locally and from the north at \$322 and \$323, but close easier, with sellers at the latter rate, the prevalence of the plague frightening investors to some extent; I have it on the best authority that the Company is doing splendidly just now, and shares are very cheap. On the basis of last half-year's dividend this stock returns 8 per cent. p.a. to investors at present rates. Indo-China has been in strong demand, and with a good business doing at \$81 to \$82, the market closes strong with possible buyers at later rate. Short sales in the north are said to be at the bottom of this upward movement. Douglases rose to \$63, but at small sales at that and at \$52, but at the close there are sellers at \$52, perhaps \$52. Hongkong Ropes had a phenomenal rise; after sales at \$150, the market went up by leaps and bounds to \$180 per share, but it is really difficult to arrive at a correct quotation, as holders refuse to part with shares, and I have even heard of a quotation of \$190, but this is simply a rumour and I cannot vouch for its correctness. The reason for this rise may be found in the decision arrived at by the General Managers, who propose, in order to find money for the necessary extension of the factory, to capitalize the 1895 earnings (about \$300,000) and pay out of the reserve fund, by the creation of 2,000 new shares of \$50 each, to be given gratis to the shareholders in the proportion of two new shares for three old ones, in lieu of declaring a dividend.

Tan Post Office officials at Dundee have just brought under their notice a very interesting journey of a letter in search of the person for whom it was intended. The letter was addressed: 'The N.G.R. Stationmaster, Dundee.' The station officials in the city refused to have anything to do with it, as it was not addressed to the stationmaster, and it had been conveyed a distance of over 5,800 miles. On investigating the probable destination of the letter it was found that there is a town named Dundee on a branch line of the North Government Railway, probably 100 miles from the point of starting, but that before the railway was completed the letters delivered it will have travelled half round the world. A similar occurrence happened some years ago, writes a correspondent, when a letter posted in London, addressed to a gentleman living at Footscray, a village in Kent, about a dozen miles from the Metropolis, was by some curious circumstance sent to Footscray in Australia, although only bearing a penny stamp. Months afterwards the addressee received the letter, covered with the usual postal history, and the words: 'Try Footscray, Kent, England.'

In his farewell address to his friends in Hongkong less than three weeks ago, Dr. Cantile made some very pertinent remarks on the subject of the health of the colony, in the course of which he said: 'The Poku-lum reservoir is a leading danger to the community in Hongkong, and that when the first elements of its contamination become known in the form of an epidemic, Dr. Cantile was called a faddist, but the warnings of a faddist are not to be despised, and on Saturday the Chairman of the Municipal Council here, Mr. J. L. Smith, was advised by the plague board that there had been 133 cases up to date. We received from our own correspondent yesterday a reassuring message stating that there were 'frequent sporadic cases not epidemic,' and we sincerely trust that the plague is not going to be epidemic again this year. That prompt measures will be taken to stop it, but in Hongkong and in the vicinity of Shanghai, we may be sure. It is strange that there should have been so many sporadic cases so early in the year, and after there has been so much rain in Hongkong. It will be deplorable if the returning prosperity of the Southern colony is to have such a blow inflicted on it as the reappearance of the plague as an epidemic would be. —*N. C. Daily News*.

NINETEEN men were charged in a body at the Mixed Court this morning with having stolen from on board the steamer *Whampoa*, on or about the 16th instant, sixty-seven sovereigns. The circumstances connected with the theft are as follows:—About six months ago, during a voyage from Australia, the *Whampoa* had on board a bag containing 500 sovereigns. These were delivered over to the second officer, who looked them up in the treasure room. At the end of the voyage the bag was found to be missing, and though a thorough search was made, they were not to be found. Soon afterwards the Chinese crew were discharged and a new lot of men taken on. On the 15th inst., as the ship was lying at Boyd & Co.'s jetty the cement floor of the galley was being taken up, and a lot of sovereigns were found underneath; how many there were cannot be ascertained. The men who made the discovery at once appropriated a good share, and bought the silence of the rest of the crew with doles from the same source. The whole proceedings, however, came to light, and several of the crew at once confessed, one man, the boatswain, having with him thirty-four sovereigns. The police were as follows:—About six months ago, during the voyage of the *Whampoa*, the Chinese crew were discharged and a new lot of men taken on. On the 15th inst., as the ship was lying at Boyd & Co.'s jetty the cement floor of the galley was being taken up, and a lot of sovereigns were found underneath; how many there were cannot be ascertained. The men who made the discovery at once appropriated a good share, and bought the silence of the rest of the crew with doles from the same source. The whole proceedings, however, came to light, and several of the crew at once confessed, one man, the boatswain, having with him thirty-four sovereigns. The police were as follows:—About six months ago, during the voyage of the *Whampoa*, the Chinese crew were discharged and a new lot of men taken on. 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A.D. 1914:
 CAPITAL FULLY SUBSCRIBED, £450,000.
 CAPITAL PAID UP, £180,000.
 TOTAL INVESTED FUNDS EXCEED £2,700,000.
 TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME, £850,000.

THE Undersigned, having been appointed
 AGENT of the above Society in Hong-
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 RIS on the usual terms.

HARRY WICKING,
 Foreign Contract.

18 July, 1905.

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1905

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